

Remarks**Claims Objections and 35 U.S.C. §101.**

Claim 23 has been amended to replace the expression "a private IP network addressing schemes" by "a private IP network addressing scheme". Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for pointing out this error.

Claims Objections and 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim 34, second occurrence, which was inadvertently included between claims 43 and 44 has been deleted.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 20 as amended reads as:

"A communication system comprising:

a plurality of virtual private networks 'VPNs' interconnected by a first data network;

a second data network connected to the plurality of VPNs via the first data network, the second data network using a network addressing scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by at least one of said plurality of VPNs; and

a VPN gateway having a VPN media proxy interfacing the first and second data networks, the VPN gateway being shared by said plurality of VPNs and providing a plurality of virtual routing functions, respective ones of said plurality of virtual routing functions being connected to respective ones of said plurality of VPNs such that each virtual routing function is in the address space of a respective one of said plurality of VPNs, wherein the VPN media proxy being is configured to pass information from a source address in said at least one of said plurality of VPNs to a destination address in said second data network, the VPN media proxy having an address translator

arranged to translate the destination address of the information in accordance with the network addressing scheme of the second data network, and to send the information towards the translated destination address in the second data network."

Basis for the changes to claim 20 are found at page 9 of the specification as filed. Other independent claims have been amended to be consistent with claim 20 (as amended).

The present invention as now claimed makes a useful contribution to the art over the combination of Forslow et al (US2002/0133534) and Donovan (US2002/0057786) in that only a single VPN gateway need be provided between the first and second data networks and for the other reasons discussed at page 5, lines 2 to 11 of the specification as filed. Contrast this to Forslow where is it taught that each home agent 1 is *dedicated* to one mobile virtual private network 'M-VPN' (abstract). Furthermore, each home agent uses *public IP addresses* (paragraph 104) rather than the address space of its respective M-VPN. As such, Forslow is in some ways representative of the prior art system discussed in the present application with respect to figure 2 and exhibits much the same disadvantages as discussed in the specification at page 3, line 12 to page 4, line 22.

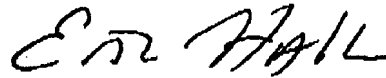
There is nothing in the disclosure of Donovan that would lead one of ordinary skill to go against the teaching of Forslow where each home agent 1 is dedicated to one mobile virtual private network 'M-VPN' and each home agent uses public IP addresses.

Consequently, the amended claims submitted herewith are believed to define an invention which is not rendered obvious by the combination of Forslow and Donovan.

Favorable reconsideration is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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